



THE ROLE OF E-LEARNING IN COVID-19 CRISIS

1Bareq Raad Raheem, 2M.Amirullah Khan

1Ph.D student , 2 Professor

1 , 2 Department of English

1, 2 Aligarh Muslim University , Aligarh, India

Abstract: The outbreak of corona virus disease (COVID-19) has been impacting millions of people and threatening their life across the world. Government of India and others are taking all necessary steps to insure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat of COVID-19. One of these necessary steps is the lockdown due to the speed spread of this virus. The aim of the present study is to show the significance role of e-learning in COVID -19 crisis. The technology has been playing a great role during the present crisis. E-learning tools has been helping the learning to study at home. This study has reviewed the concept of e-learning, features of e-learning and the role of it in English language teaching and learning. Finally the searcher has shown the role of e-learning in COVID-19 crises.

Index Terms: E-learning, COVID19, Learning, Teaching

Introduction

There are an important factors in order to build good nation and one of these factors is education. Education can be consider as a backbone of any country in the world. Usually in disaster time the governments are used to suspend the schools, universities and other governmental institutions for sometimes . Whole the world are fighting the unique and dangerous virus called COVID -19. It has been spreading in most of countries such as china, Italy, Spain ,Iran and other countries.

The governments of most countries have ordered to lockdown and asked the people to stay at their homes due to the danger of this virus on human life .The teachers in different countries have started using e-learning in teaching the students in this period . Technology has been advancing and can say that we are living in technological revolution. The technology has a vital role in different filed such as business , medicine , and education ..etc. E-Learning can be defined as the use of computer and internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solution to enable learning and improve performance. Ghirardini, B . (2011) .

E-learning being in the presence when firstly used the word at CBT system in 1999. Other words have begun also to spring up in search of an accurate description as virtual learning and online learning. Nevertheless, the ideologies and values behind e-learning have recognized through the history. There is indication which proposes that early forms of e-learning existed as far back as the 19th century .

E-learning is considered as new method of teaching rather than face to face teaching. E-learning has the ability to offer and share materials in all kinds of formats as e-mails, slideshows, videos, PDFs, and word documents. It is also conducting webinars(live online class), communication with teachers via message and chat forum is also an option available to user . Using e-learning can be considered as bridged which make you feel as if you inside the classroom.

Due to the significance of E-learning , different researchers have been writing in the area of e-learning. Kawatra, P. S., & Singh, N. K. (2006).This study has discussed the concepts of open and distance learning. It also has examined the effect of internet on the teacher's

role .The searcher has also explored the types of skills and strategies that teacher to be effective in online learning. This paper has provided a vision into innovative multi-channel delivery modes adopted by the different universities.

Anderson, J. (2005). This study has explained how IT changed our life. It has shown also the role of ICT in teaching in the schools. This study has focused on importance of e-learning and how it combined the pedagogy and technology. The searcher has concluded by outlining why E-learning is important in teacher development.

Mohammadi, N.,et al(2011).This study has showed the role of e-learning and its application in language learning process and compared it with traditional form of language learning. It also has provided advantages and disadvantages of e-learning in language learning. The researcher when referred to the above related studies was able to bring out this maiden thought into his research done on the role of e-learning in COVID19 crisis and to show the important of it in different fields. The present paper is going to show the role of e-learning in COVID -19 crisis.

E-learning

E-learning is a technological tool has been used for teaching and learning. Basically, computer and internet are essential to enable transferring of knowledge and skills. The applications of e-learning include ,computer based learning, web- based learning, virtual education opportunities and digital collaboration. Content is provided via internet ,audio or video tape ,CDROM, and satellite TV. E-learning can be self-paced or instructor-led that include image, media in the form of text, animation, and streaming video and audio. Different abbreviations have been used as synonyms to e-learning like CBT(Computer-Based Training),WBT(Web-Based Training) and IBT(Internet-Based Training).

E-learning has a different features such as **it is simply web-based training**, which means You don't need to install software or CDs on your computer. Internet connection and a web browser are all you need . watch, listen and learn as training professionals demonstrate each lesson right on your computer screen.

Always available, means all of the courses are available 24 hours a day,7 days a week. purchase your subscription once, easily login for direct access to your courses. Courses are designed by software training professionals with years of classroom training experience. Anyone is able to learn from his/ her home and office. **Free access to E-manuals** , which means the subscription contains access to classroom e-manuals (PDF), along with practice exercises and keyboard shortcuts. Modify your training with *easy to use* menu. **Clear, easy to follow , step by step instruction** that means Anyone can watches the training sessions many times he/she wants to, while practicing in software, make it the most representative practice available.

E-learning can be described as **the best and most convenient way to learn on your own** . **Comprehensive**, means that all of the topics is covered and included in classroom trainings.

Role Of E-Learning In English Teaching And Learning

The advanced development of computer and information technology has been offering a favorable external environment for English teaching. Millions of learners of English around the world. Information technology is providing them with rich teaching material of English. It furnishes an opportunity to teachers for changing their pedagogical strategies and to enhance the efficiency of teaching and learning. If we keep insist on giving emphasize to grammar and vocabulary, then the learners are only be able to pass the exam easily and cant master the language. Cai,H.(2012).

Moreover, The use of e-learning effects on second language teaching and learning process. The learners have been coordinating with e-learning and using of computer and modern technologies and this will help them to increase and enhance their knowledge . E-learning can be considered as of the advanced teaching style than can provide the teachers a creative ideas and help them to have their own electronic method. Due to the significance of the e-learning , some of the teachers organized or arranged programs to teach their students.

E-learning is like the buzz word in every educational environment. It is important to infuse the technology in education because it provides the needs of the present learners. Nowadays, the environment of the classroom is completely different from the traditional one . The traditional methods depend on the lecturing and rote learning and that will not improve English language skills among the learners. There are new technologies become an essential part of our daily life like internet, mobile phones, you tube, blogs ,tweeter and many more have added not only stimulus but also learners' engagement and real interactivity within the classroom. The teachers can encourage the learners to improve their language skills by utilizing the innovation ELT techniques like English songs, dramatic, sports commentaries, movie clippings, advertisements ..etc.

Finally, the e-learning tools have been changing the way of teaching and learning English. Information and communications technologies (ICT) include the communication devices and new digital technologies such as email, audio equipment ,cameras, and video conferencing have not been only influencing and supporting what is being learned in schools, colleges and universities but it also has been supporting changes the way students are learning.

Role Of E-Learning In COVID-19 Crisis

While the whole world is fighting the invisible enemy (COVID-19) which has been killing thousands of people around the globe but the teaching and learning process are still carry on by using e-learning and its tools.

In India ,the government went for lockdown all the cities to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Due to ongoing of COVID-19 a noticed significant has seen in increasing of the number of students who are using the platform and apps of ED-TECH and online companies.

Different companies such as Vedantu, Unacademy, and Byju's have offered free access to live classes to the students in order to continue their learning from home. Byju's co-founder and Director, Divya Gokulnath, said, in a statement, "Since our announcement last week, we have witnessed a 60% increase in the number of new students using the app to learn from home daily." This statement refers to the big role which E-learning is playing nowadays specifically in COVID-19 crises.

Nowadays, students are accessing the lessons increasingly on different apps and that will help the students specially who are in higher grades be ready for the coming year.

Moreover, Gaurav Munjal, co-founder and CEO at Unacademy declared that " in the last three weeks,learner who are watching free classes have increased by 3x.We are clocking 30 million minutes of watch time on Unacademy every single days. Our educators started taking more live classes".

Furthermore, Vedantu has been offering free access to live classes to students and schools in different states in India such as new Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kerala.

Coursera can be considered as one of the e-learning platforms in the world, recently has declared that it will provide every impacted university around the world, including India, free access to their catalogue through Coursera for campus till July 31.2020.

Generally, most of universities after the lockdown in India requested the faculty members and the students to use e-learning applications for the academic purposes and one of these universities is Aligarh Muslim University. The vice chancellor has requested the faculty members to upload the PPT of lectures and study material in PDF form on their webpage of the university website or on another electronic modes such as whatsapp and/or email to let the students come across them during the lockdown.

The searcher has contacting with students who are studying in other countries like china, turkey and Iraq to inquire about e-learning status in their countries during VOVID-19 crises. In china, After spreading virus specifically in Wuhan city , the government has ordered to shut all institutions such as schools, universities , markets ..etc. The teachers have started teaching their students via e-learning applications through uploading PDF, online class and ask the students to do their assignments and send them by WeChat app and /or email .The teachers are using different apps in online teaching such as Voov, Superstar ,ZOOM cloud meetings .

In Iraq, Google classroom has been used for uploading the study materials. Google classroom helps the students to find the material related to their subjects easily and study it at home. In Turkey, applications such as Teams and Zoom have been used widely. On the other hand, most of Universities have been uploading study material on the webpage of the university.

The discussion above has shown the great value of e-learning in teaching and learning. E-learning has assisted both students and teachers in COVID-19 crisis.

Conclusion / Suggestions

Staying at home is one of the steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Thus all universities, colleges and schools have been closed in India and other countries. Technology becomes an essential part of our daily life. E-learning, internet and computers have been used vitally in teaching and learning process. This study has proved and shown how E-learning and using applications such as Zoom, Teams, Veev, Google classroom and many others have been helping the students to study at home in COVID-19 crisis.

Suggestions

Using e-learning is all about learning and taking a step that helps in moving toward higher education level. We need to be familiar with technology devices and use them to enhance education and knowledge. The teachers should use e-learning tools in the classroom and encouraging students in downloading number of educational apps to make the journey towards learning pleasing and interesting.

References

- [1] Anderson, J. (2005). IT, e-learning and teacher development. *International Education Journal*, 5(5), 1-14.
- [2] Cai, H. (2012). E-learning and English Teaching. *IERI Procedia*, 2, 841-846.
- [3] Ghirardini, B. (2011). E-learning methodologies: A guide for designing and developing e-learning courses. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- [4] <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/covid-19-impact-online-learning-companies-see-spike-in-number-of-students-11584724448197.html>
- [5] Kawatra, P. S., & Singh, N. K. (2006). E-learning in LIS education in India.
- [6] Mohammadi, N., Ghorbani, V., & Hamidi, F. (2011). Effects of e-learning on language learning. *Procedia Computer Science*, 3, 464-468.